



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

November 10, 2023

Dear Faculty,

At this point in any semester, many of us, our colleagues, and our students are likely to be stressed. Recent traumatic events in the news may cause additional stress that further impacts a student's ability to learn effectively. Importantly, someone does not need to be directly affected by an issue within the news to experience heightened stress, while those who you might expect to have a heightened reaction may not be affected. Therefore, in order to support all of our students as they navigate feelings of stress or trauma, it is appropriate for faculty teaching across all disciplines to remind students of the resources that are available to them and to acknowledge that students may need support.

The Center for Faculty Excellence has developed a [Traumatic Events and Stressors](#) resource to help faculty check in and share resources with students. Counseling services are also available for [students](#), as well as [faculty and staff](#) experiencing stress or trauma, and all OU students and employees also have free access to [TAO](#) (Therapy Assistance Online). In addition, the Office of Global Engagement and their team in International Student Services (iss@ou.edu) offers access to MySSP/[TELUS Health Student Support](#), which provides free 24/7 access to professional, on-demand counseling services in several languages.

If you are concerned about someone and believe that they may be in distress, please refer them to the [OU Behavior Intervention Team](#).

Kind regards,

André-Denis G. Wright
Senior Vice President and Provost